

Mary Fox

Tape #48

Interviewed: 14 February 1978 at the 617 N Vernal Avenue.

Interviewed by Diedra Northern

Mary Fox (Mary): When the immigrants were coming to the Salt Lake Valley, they would stop in a number of places and put in crops so those that came after them were able to stop and rest and replenish their supplies. The group that he was with, Mother always called the place where they stopped was Dixie. I've never learned exactly where that was. It was in the southern part of Utah or someplace down there.

Diedra Northern (DN): Now this was you Grandfather Daugherty?

Mary: This was my grandparents. They stopped there and put in a good crop and the Indians were very bad. They were treacherous and causing trouble all the time to the people. This Dixieland where they stopped, they put in a big crop and had everything growing nicely. The corn was all ready to harvest and the Indians got on the warpath. Brigham Young always told them to feed them. It was better to feed the Indians than to fight them. So they gave them their cows and their oxen, everything they had, whenever they would come and demand it. They would go off on the hills and gorge theirself and then they would dance their war dance every night.

Mother said it was so hideous, it was terrible. They kept that up until they got so bad that Brigham Young told the group to come back to Salt Lake because it wasn't safe for them. So they got their things all together and were ready to leave. And the day they were to leave, Grandpa couldn't find his oxen, they strayed during the night. The group he was with were all ready to come, so they decided they would come and Grandfather would try to find his oxen and catch up with them. One of the parties said he'd stay with Grandfather and his family and help to find his oxen and he would come up with them. So that's what they did. There was the two families. They hunted all day and when they finally found them, the oxen were in just right close to where their farm was in a grove of willows; they had hid there all day long. Mother said that they had went through there two or three times and they couldn't find them. When they finally located them, it was getting dark so they decided they would wait 'til early morning and start early and catch the group that was going ahead, which they did.

In the morning they got up early and started out and they hadn't gone only a short distance [when they] found where the group had been. Everyone had been massacred that day. During the night, they had been massacred. They couldn't do anything about it because there wasn't one of them left. They'd burned their wagons and just destroyed everything and took their horses and their oxen and everything, you know. The Indians had taken that and gone.

They went on and they hadn't only gone a little ways until they met the soldiers. They were coming down to guard them out of the country. They went back to Salt Lake. Grandfather, his family, they located right around where Logan is now. They were just getting started to do it again and Brigham Young called them then to come out here and help settle Ashley Valley. But he give them time to dispose of their holdings there where they were located, as much as possible. So, it took them a little over a year before they sold their place and got their horses and wagons and things they needed for a new country. By that time it was getting late in the fall and kind of toward the fall of the year, but they came anyhow.

When they got here, they couldn't put in crops or anything, they just had to turn their cows and horses and things loose to forge for themselves that winter. That winter was what they called the Hard

Winter. The snow was so deep, it was simply awful, but they couldn't do anything about it. In the spring when Father went to find his horses and things and put in the crops, all he could find was one coal-gray horse. He was so poor you could count every bone. He had one little heifer, that was all he had left. I suppose the Indians had run away with the rest of them.

He got them and he took a quarter section. This land all in here where we are now was my grandfathers's. The Indians then got on the warpath again. They were going to drive them out. But they finally decided they would [build a] kind of house they called the Old Fort. I guess you've got a record of that where it was built up here in town. They put their families in there so they could better protect themselves while the men were out to work on their farms in the daytime, then they would go back and stay there in the night. They lived there for two years in this fort.

Finally the soldiers came in the old Fort Thornburgh, which is located up here in the mouth of the canyon. The soldiers kind of acted as a protection to them so they could move out of the fort. Grandfather moved his cabin that he had in the fort, he moved it down on his place. He moved his cabin down on this Main Street, down here. Glen Lee owns the place now. Of course, they have remodeled it, but they still have the front room that he put up. That's their front room where they live now. They built on to the place and put in a new roof, so it's quite a good place. That's where we lived until he died. Part of his land now, that he located at that time, is where they are building our new chapel.

DN: It's in his pasture where they are building the new church?

Mary: Yes. That's part of his land. He took up a quarter section of ground. When they could get out of the fort, he moved his house out on his land. The pastures where he had his cows, we used to call it the Old Slough. Now the land has been settled in there, all in there. They are building our new chapel in this place we used to call the Slough.

DN: What were some of the hardships that your mother told you about?

Mary: You mean when they were in the fort? Or when they first came to this country?

DN: When they were living in the fort and then when they moved out of the fort on the property.

Mary: As I told you, they came in just before the Hard Winter. They call it the Hard Winter because the snow was so deep. They weren't really prepared for this kind of winter. All they had to live on was wheat. Mother had just one of these little old coffee mills, and that's what they ground their wheat up in to make your bread, and that's what they lived on all the winter. They became so tired of that kind of bread. When the snow melted a little bit so they could get over the mountain, some of the men took their teams and went over to Rock Springs, brought back some white flour. Mother said the bread they made out of this flour tasted better than any cake she ever tasted after living on hard wheat all winter. They used to go out after the snow melted and dig sego lilies and things like that to eat to replenish their supply of food.

DN: What were sego lilies?

Mary: At the bottom of the sego lily there's a little bulb. They would dig them up and eat these little bulbs. The hills used to be just covered with sego lilies down here. They are beautiful flowers. Didn't you ever see one?

DN: No.

Mary: Oh, well, you've missed something! You very, very seldom see a sego lily now. They are just beautiful. They were dug up, you see, and used. But that's what they used to go out and dig in the spring of the year.

DN: Did your father farm?

Mary: My father?

DN: Yes, when he came here?

Mary: No. He was working for the A.H. Cattle Co. when he first came here. He was just a young man. Before, every once in a while they used to have a dance and the boys from the mountain would come down and they'd dance there in the fort on the ground. That's where my mother met my father. He came down, and they met there at the dance at the Old Fort.

DN: Where was the A.H. Cattle Co.?

Mary: It was up on Blue Mountain.

DN: Who owned it?

Mary: It was Hatches' from Heber. They had a big horse ranch up there, pure-bred horses. My father worked for them for \$30 a month. That was good, top wages for a man, until they put him in as foreman at the A.H. Cattle Co. They raised him ten dollars a month more, \$40 dollars a month. Imagine anybody living on \$40 a month now. You get that a day.

DN: Where did he work after that?

Mary: After the Hatch Company sold their holdings up on the mountain, the big ranch? Father and Mother were married. They gave Father and Mother twenty-five acres of land here. Grandfather gave that to them. So they built a home right on in here; this is all our old home. My father built up a beautiful home. His father did beautiful woodwork, a carpenter. So father knew how to build a nice home, so he built a big home. He sawed the logs and had a roof on it and windows in the house. In fact, he had an upstairs where we had an extra bedroom. We had one of the nicest houses that were in the valley at that time. And everybody that came in and wanted a real nice home, they would always come down and rent a place from Father and Mother for them to spend a night or two. So they always let them do it, but they never got a cent for it. It was all free. We used to have people from New York, the author of "Squaw Man." Did you ever read that book?

DN: No, I haven't.

Mary: Gave him material to write that book. The author from New York, his name was Sinclair Royal. He had a cabin over in a place they call the Dugout Wash. It's just before you go up on Blue Mountain. There used to be a family lived there. That's where he stayed to get his material. Whenever he would come to

town he would always come to stay with us. Dr. Hullinger, he had a ranch down on Green River where he lived, he and his family. It was not quite to Green River, it was on Ashley Creek down there almost to Green River. And he would always come to stay with us when he come up to visit his patients around here. We had authors and doctors and lawyers and everybody staying with us.

DN: I bet that was interesting for you kids.

Mary: I was real, real small, so I didn't know much difference. Mother always cooked for them, give them a meal and furnish the bed for them. Even the president, I can't even remember his name now, but anyway he was the president of the United States and he came out for his health one time and he was hunting lions and things over in around in Meeker and places like that and he always come and stayed with us. His name was Teddy Roosevelt.

DN: Oh, and he stayed with you?

Mary: He stayed with us when he was in town.

DN: Oh, how interesting.

Mary: People like that, they always stayed with us because we had a real nice house and an extra bedroom and so this was their stopping place. So Mother, she had quite an experience, I guess, cooking for them. And Father always was entertaining. They'd come and stay and talk with Father. So that's kind of the life we used to live in my early days. I hope you're not copying this down.

DN: You're doing fine. Where did they go to get their supplies? Did they go to Rock Springs?

Mary: After they could raise their crops, they grew 'most everything they raised. But there was a man put up a little store. The store was just a little lumber building and it was right on the corner of Ashton's there, you know, right where the bank is, that's where the store was. They had just what a country store would have. They had sugar and salt and things of that sort. Down one side of it was canned goods, what people could buy. Then on the other side of the building, they had bolts of calico and things of that sort. Then the back of the store was where they kept their shoes. So there's just a big long counter went through the center of the store and that was the country store. They had groceries, such as sugar and salt, and things of that sort.

DN: So they didn't have to go over the mountain too much for supplies then?

Mary: Not for those because people raised nearly everything they needed as far as eating was concerned, after they got their crops growing.

DN: Do you remember the Depression?

Mary: That was later.

DN: What was it like?

Mary: You couldn't get anything.

DN: How did people live during that time?

Mary: Well, when you have to live, you generally find a way. They grew everything they could have. Lots of people got started around here. Of course, they had cows and chickens and pigs and things of that sort and what they just grew everything and raised everything they had nearly. So that's how they did that.

DN: What did your husband do after you got married?

Mary: He was a sheep man. We had sheep. So he had those for a while and after he sold the sheep, he would clerk in the store and things like that.

DN: Where did he run his sheep at?

Mary: Where we run our sheep was up on the mountain up here.

DN: Was there still much trouble between the sheep and the cattle men then?

Mary: Not here. We didn't have that trouble.

DN: Where did they ship the sheep when they got ready to sell them, the lambs and that?

Mary: They generally took them out to Omaha, Nebraska, and sold them out to Omaha.

DN: Did they freight them out there?

Mary: Yes.

[Pause. New topic begins, apparently about Indians.]

Being so mean, you know, got settled down a little bit. They used to go hunting every spring and every fall of the year. Where we were living over here there's that stream of water would run down to our place and they would always camp along that stream. They would come up to our house and always beg for biscuits. So when we knew the Indians were coming, Mother always had a lot of biscuits baked up that day. She would bake a whole big stack of them.

DN: Were you scared of the Indians?

Mary: We didn't say we were afraid of them then, but we children didn't bother them. There was one fall of the year, I can remember, I was just a very small girl. The old Indians came up and they'd say, "Biscuit, biscuit, me heap hungry." So Mother would always give them a biscuit or two and they would go away. They did that all day until she had a big pan of biscuits and they had eaten every one of them. When this old Indian came up to the house, it was getting kind of late, and he begged for biscuits and we had a hired girl at that time. She went to the door. She said, "All gone. Indians eat it all up. No more biscuits." And he said, "Me heap hungry, biscuit." And she said, "We don't have any more bread, all gone." But he kept asking for it and she had false teeth. Some way or the other she had dropped her false teeth down and grinned at him. The old Indian turned and ran! He ran back as hard as he could and we weren't bothered

anymore by him.

DN: He had never seen that, huh?

Mary: No, he thought she was an old witch. I could hear her laugh. She sat down in a chair and she laughed and laughed. She went in the house and told Mother about it.

DN: And the Indian didn't come back for a long time?

Mary: We didn't have any more Indians come back and ask for biscuits that fall.

DN: Where did the Indians used to go hunting in the spring?

Mary: Oh, they used to go up on the mountain and places like that and get deer and things of that sort to eat.

DN: Did they use the bow and arrows then to kill them?

Mary: They got to the point they had begun to get guns. But a few of them had the bow and arrows, but they generally depended on guns for that.

DN: Did the government give them the guns?

Mary: They got them someplace. I suppose they bought from the settlers that came in.

DN: Did you do much trading with the Indians?

Mary: We never did. I can remember when I was a little girl. After the soldiers got up here to Fort Thornburgh, they used to come down to town quite often. Mother used to make custard pies. They hired Mother to make custard pie for them. She started a certain day that she would make custard pies and they came down and guess what they paid her? Five cents a piece, for pie!

DN: Was that pretty good money for the pies in those days?

Mary: I don't believe anybody else ever made pie. It wasn't hard for us because we had our own cows and had the milk. We had chickens so we had plenty of eggs and had pigs so we had plenty of lard to make the crust with. So the only thing Mother had to buy really was sugar and a little flavoring. So five cents a piece would just about pay for that. They used to just come down and she couldn't make enough pie to supply the demand. They just loved her pie.

DN: It was probably a big treat for them.

Mary: It really was.

DN: What did you do for recreation when you were a girl?

Mary: We used to go to dances.

DN: Where did they have the dances?

Mary: We had a big social hall up in town. In fact, as well as I can place it, it's where Christensen's have their store there [about 75 S. Vernal Avenue]. That used to be our social hall, but they've changed it. We had a good orchestra. There was Adams' Cornet Band and we had a really good orchestra and we used to go there once a week and have dances. They had pretty good plays, theaters and things like that. We had some good actors here, so they put on plays every once in a while, and they were well attended.

DN: Did you go to school?

Mary: Did I go to school? Oh, yes. I can remember my first teacher's name. Her name was Mrs. Sadie Holdaway. She learned us our letters and how to read and taught us how to count a little bit. When she taught, that was my beginners. Then we had schools here all the time. They didn't have grades like they do nowadays. It was always "reader": First Reader, Second Reader, Third, Fourth and Fifth. Fifth Reader was highest in the grade schools that they taught. Then after that they had a class, they used to call it elocution. They would teach us how to stand and speak correctly and things of that sort. Then after that they had an academy. That's where the higher schools were. We went to school and had an education.

DN: Did you go to the academy?

Mary: I didn't get to go to the academy. By that time, I had to go to work. My father died and I had to then quit school and help Mother/ But I went through all the others up to that, and then after that it was up to me to get all I could.

DN: Where did you go to work?

Mary: I used to work for everybody that needed work. Worked in the houses for people. They paid a big sum of a dollar a week.

DN: What was the discipline like in the school when you went to school? How did they discipline?

Mary: If they didn't mind them, they'd give them a spanking.

DN: That was simple.

Mary: The teachers would take and just spank them good.

DN: And the parents didn't mind?

Mary: Oh, no. The teachers were boss, and they had to mind the teachers. If they didn't, they'd get into trouble. We surely used to have some boys that were quite difficult. They are the ones that got the spanks. The girls didn't get spanked.

DN: Did they play pranks in school?

Mary: Yes, the boys did.

DN: What were some of the pranks they played?

Mary: They generally had firecrackers. At recess and places like that, they'd throw them among the girls and let the firecrackers explode. Mean little brats, weren't they?

DN: Were most of the people that came into the valley then sent by Brigham Young?

Mary: Oh, no. After the place got started, by then people were getting to move in. They would come in and locate and live here. We had stores go up and had pretty good business going on.

DN: Why did Brigham Young decide to settle the Ashley Valley?

Mary: When they lived in Salt Lake, he used to send them out to different parts of the country up there, too, because they were coming in so fast they had to have homes. He'd send them out to different places to settle it up and get things started and people would move in and come to those places to live, take up land and live there, make their homes.

DN: So when too many people started coming in to Salt Lake, he'd send scouts out to find different places to send them, huh?

Mary: Yes, because it would build up you see. After things got going, it built up. Of course. Salt Lake was always our headquarters. Yes, they got building churches and places. I can even remember when I was a little girl that we didn't have any church. They used to build boweries. They would set up framework and then they would go down on the creek and get branches, big leaves, and cover the whole bowery and make it just a nice cool place. They would have their seats and put them underneath there and that's where we had our churches.

DN: Were there quite a few people went to these boweries to church?

Mary: All that was in the country would come there.

DN: That's how your father came out to this country, was with the A.H. Cattle Co?

Mary: Yes, he was just a young man.

DN: So your mother lived here all her life then, didn't she?

Mary: Well, she moved in with her father when he came to this country to settle it up. That's when she came.

DN: And they came just before the Hard Winter?

Mary: They just got in late that summer when that winter it snowed so deep.

DN: Was that around 1879?

Mary: I can't remember the dates at all, so I can't give you any dates.

DN: What was it like when your grandfather lived in the fort for those two years?

Mary: Of course, I wasn't born then, but after Mother got married and moved out on the farm, I can tell you more about that. I know these hills had nothing on them but sagebrush and flowers. I used to go and pick the most beautiful flowers all over these hills around where I'm living now. There were such pretty flowers that I used to go out when I was a little girl and gather those flowers.

Across the street from where I live now, right over in there, we used to call it the prairie dog town. It was all nothing but prairie dogs. Early in the morning, they'd come out on the hill and bark. The Indians used to come down and get them out of the holes and they would eat them.

DN: They would eat the prairie dogs?

Mary: Yes, they thought they were real good. Things have certainly changed. We used to gather flowers all the time when I was a little girl. We would go out on the hills, you know, and there was a flower we called sweet william and marigolds and sand lilies, all kinds. They were beautiful. Did you ever see a sand lily?

DN: No, I don't think I have.

Mary: No, they are all gone, too. But they had the nicest perfume to them. They were lilies and they grew up about that high and they had flowers on them about that big around, white flowers. And they had the nicest perfume. Used to be just in the spring of the year like a flower bed all around here, of wild flowers.

DN: Did your mother make most of the clothes that you wore?

Mary: Yes, we had to. She knit. She made all of our stockings and gloves and caps and everything like that. That's where they had the knit, they knit them.

DN: Did they sell material up at the store?

Mary: No, they'd get wool, and they'd wash the wool and then card it and then they'd have home carding machines. They could card them to threads. I suppose, though, after the town got a little older, they had yarn; they'd sell skeins of yarn up at the stores. But I know at first they didn't have that. They had to card their own wool and make things.

DN: That was probably pretty hard to get all that grease and stuff out of the wool, wasn't it?

Mary: Yes, but they knew how to do it. They made their own soap and they would use their soap and do it. They were very efficient people.

DN: Very self-sustained, it sounds like.

Mary: They were. They had to be.